

It's About YOUTH

Newsletter of the Utah State Youth Council on Workforce Services • July 2005



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FEELS SO GOOD...

It has always seemed strange to me that in our endless discussions about education so little stress is laid on the pleasure of becoming an educated person, the enormous

interest it adds to life. To be able to be caught up into the world of thought – that is to be educated.

- Edith Hamilton

Chair's Message

My term as State Youth Council chair expired on June 30th. I would like to comment briefly on a few of my observations over the past several years. I have served on both State and Regional Councils since before the merge of multiple agencies into what is today the Department of Workforce Services. I was part of the study group headed by then Lieutenant Governor Olene Walker. What a monumental task. I served as the first chair of the State Regional Council Chairs committee. I have seen this whole thing emerge into a first class agency that other states seek to replicate. We have come a long way from the time of JTPA "summer youth" programs to the year-round WIA Youth Program of today. Before we had such a brief opportunity to influence those youth in need. Today working with them year-round, tutoring and supporting them, we have opportunity to open up doors, show them a better way and improve their futures.

Our youth's success stories are numerous and continue to amaze even those who work closely with them. By expanding the youth program to "year-round" we were given the tools, but it was the people that have used those tools to create this success. I have had opportunity to meet and work with incredibly dedicated people both in DWS and many of the vendors whom they contract with. I have seen the time and effort that has been contributed by them, and the success of this program must be attributed to these people.

I have enjoyed my years of association with these good people and wish them all continued success in their endeavors.



Jan Zogmaister



Utah's TAL Initiative Receives Award

TAL UPDATE BY JANE BROADHEAD

The Assistant Secretary of the Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration (ETA), Emily DeRocco, initiated a Recognition of Excellence process in 2004 to honor programs of the nation's workforce investment system that demonstrated admirable performance. Nominating the Transition to Adult Living initiative was natural.

Implementation team members worked together to complete the nomination and submitted it, one of ninety-five submissions from across the country in the category of "Recognizing Special Populations in the Workforce."

Three awards are given, and Utah's Transition to Adult Living initiative received one of them at the Workforce Innovations 2005 conference earlier this week.

The National Governor's Association (NGA) assisted TAL with the infrastructure-building process over the past two years, and provided the endorsement for the ROE nomination (see letter on page 3).

The purpose of TAL is to help foster youth become successful adults through a community based, private/public network of support. Successful implementation of the results of the TAL effort ensures that there are caring adults willing to make sacrifices to help youth achieve their individual goals.

Thanks to the hard work of caring people from a variety of agencies and organizations across the state, TAL implementation is well underway. Rarely has there been a group of young people more deserving.



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*T*o Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to express my support for Utah's application for the U.S. Department of Labor's Recognition of Excellence award. Utah's Transition to Adult Living (TAL) initiative is an ambitious and innovative cross-systems approach to ensuring better outcomes for youth aging out of foster care.

Under the leadership of former Governor Olene Walker, and with strong commitment from senior officials in a number of state agencies, Utah set a clear vision, developed a strategic plan and has implemented a number of promising initiatives. Of particular note has been the collaborative relationship developed between the Department of Human Services and Workforce Services to help ensure that youth aging out of foster care receive the training they need to become self-sufficient young adults.

The Utah project was part of the NGA Policy Academy on Cross-Systems Innovation and we were very impressed by the amount of progress during the academy project year. Additionally, the experiences of the Utah TAL team demonstrated the promise of a cross-systems approach for foster youth and inspired the NGA Center for Best Practices to develop a new initiative to work with more states on this issue using a collaborative model. I believe that Utah's TAL initiative is worthy of recognition by DOL.

Susan Golonka
Program Director for Human Services
NGA Center for Best Practices





Western Region

Request for Proposal for WIA Youth Services

Department of Workforce Services in Western Region is requesting bids to provide WIA Youth Services. Details can be found on the Internet at purchasing.utah.gov. Under Current Bids the bid number is RM6000. A "Pre-proposal Conference" was held June 28 in the Cedar City Employment Center

Summer Youth Employment Opportunities

Western Region placed 80 youth in summer employment in both private and public businesses. These youth are learning work-readiness skills as well as job skills from June 6 through August 18. It is a true challenge to reach youth in 11 different counties. However, every county has great employers who want to reach out and help youth learn to be productive, working citizens.

Leadership Development Projects

Each county in the region developed a youth leadership activity. The response from the local offices was overwhelming with many innovative projects to teach leadership skills. In many cases the youth helped plan and execute the projects. After the

projects, they met to discuss the things they learned and participate in motivational and teamwork activities. Some of the projects included:

Nephi City: Youth helped prepare for the July Handcart Pageant in Nephi and worked on the scenery for the pageant. It is hoped that after their involvement with the leadership project the youth will continue to help until the pageant it is finished. This will help with their organizational skills and build self-confidence.

Cedar City: Youth participants helped with a community show of support for the "Triple Deuce." The city paid tribute to the 800 members prior to their deployment to Iraq. This tribute included dinner, a program and special presentations. WIA Youth helped set up props, tables, chairs, and other equipment. They worked along side several other community volunteers and city workers. This was a great experience to the youth and was a positive involvement with the community.

Delta/Fillmore: Youth participants assisted in laying decorative rock at

the Millard County Baseball Park. Eighteen youth were supervised by Millard County workers in the laying of the rock and learning to work together as a team and develop pride in their community.

Garfield County: Only one youth in Escalante participated on the project. This youth contacted Escalante City to volunteer in the Escalante Days Festival. Under supervision from the City, the youth had the opportunity to place and remove the American Flags that are placed on the light poles along Main Street. This helped to increase the



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youth's knowledge about the American flag and those who have served our country and given their lives for our freedom.

St. George: WIA Youth in St. George will participate in making picture books for orphanages around the world. Deseret Industries will supply the materials and instructions/supervision and the youth will glue the pictures on colored paper and organize the book.

Youth will then do research on the internet about orphanages and find other ways they can help throughout their lives. Youth will learn the joys of giving and service to other youth who are in unfortunate situations.

Richfield: Youth will attend a motivational meeting before going to the fairgrounds and painting. After the painting and clean up, they will participate in a "Survivor" activity where they will split into groups and have an "injured" person. With the use of items provided, they will use their wits and knowledge to save the life. Dutch oven lunch will be provided at the day activity.



Youth in St. George enjoy making picture books for orphanages.

Western Region Success Story

Audrey C. was placed in the summer program at the Spectrum Newspaper in St. George. She was visited by employment counselor Charlotte Potter a few days after she began working and enthusiastically shared what she had accomplished in just a few short days. The supervisor,

Gloria Bertram, said Audrey jumped right in and learned quickly. She is learning the front desk reception job prior to that person leaving. Audrey will be filling that position until a new person is hired and will help train the new person. Audrey learned to answer the phone, direct calls, take classified ads, wedding

announcements, obituaries and much more. Gloria would like to hire her part-time when the summer opportunity ends. Gloria is pleased that Audrey is so motivated and eager. She is willing to offer more internships now that she has had such a wonderful first "subject."



Region Updates

Central Region

Youth Employability Services (YES) - Summer Workplace Essentials Class

Approximately 40 YES youth participated in a Workplace Essentials class during the month of June. The class curriculum was developed by the Salt Lake Community College Corporate Training office. The workshops were funded primarily through the use of the college's Short Term Intensive Training (STIT) funds. The 16-hour class provided youth with a solid understanding of what it takes to get and keep employment. This collaboration is also a good example of how the YES program has been able to leverage funds with our community partners.

Graduation Celebration

On June 29, 2005, a Graduation Celebration was held to congratulate YES participants for their recent academic achievements. During the current program year the YES program has assisted over 90 YES participants achieve their diploma or GED in addition to two youth who earned Associate's Degrees.

The celebration was held at the Salt Lake County Government Center. Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon was present at the event and spoke briefly to the audience. The keynote speaker was Sunny Nakae-Gibson, Director of Diversity and Community Outreach for the University of Utah School of Medicine. Sunny also participated as an employer during this past year's YES Groundhog Job Shadow Day. The youth and their families enjoyed the talks and reception that followed after the formal event.

Central Region Success Stories

Shannon F. entered the YES program in April 2004 as a 17-year-old high school junior. Shannon was attending an alternative high school, lacked work experience and work skills, was basic skills deficient and had a history of low grades. During her enrollment in the YES program, Shannon completed a paid internship with Neighborhood Housing's Youthworks. She helped to build a fence and landscape a yard for a low-income family who had a child with a disability.



Shannon graduates!

Shannon also completed over 300 hours of leadership, including community service with the Foster Care Foundation, career exploration, and attending the Utah Business Week held at Utah State University. Shannon raised her math skills from a grade level of 4.2 to a 10.6 grade level. Shannon also raised her grades to a 3.0 or above for every quarter during her senior year. Shannon made up credits and graduated with her class on June 9th. Shannon now intends to work for a year in California and to attend college after obtaining her residency.

Gabby A. entered the Youth Employability Services (YES) program as a 17-year-old high school senior at Granite High School. Because of previous health problems she had less than half the credits needed to graduate. Gabby worked during the day as a cashier to help with her family's expenses and attended night school to make up credits. Gabby made

Region Updates



Gabby (r) with case manager Kim Wood

disadvantaged students in learning and achieving success within a health care career. HCOP offers an exceptional summer program called Summer Academic Enrichment in partnership with the YES program, as well as local school districts, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC) and Intermountain Health Care (IHC). Twenty-five students participate in an intensive 8-week course in which they receive six hours of instruction in reading and math each day in a fun, interactive environment.

her goal clear to the staff at YES. She was determined to make up over two years worth of high school credits in just seven months. Although the YES staff suggested the goal would be difficult to attain in such a short time Gabby insisted she could do it, and YES staff committed to help her reach her goal. She kept her full time job, attended night school and worked with a YES tutor daily to complete assignments and prepare for tests. Her hard work paid off – she graduated in the summer of 2004 and began training as a clinical laboratory assistant that fall. Gabby completed her CLA training in the winter of 2005 and began searching in earnest for employment in her chosen field. YES staff assisted her in her job search, and Gabby is now employed as a specimen processor with ARUP Laboratories.

Summer Academic Enrichment Program

The Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) seeks to recruit and assist

Additionally, one day each week is dedicated to leadership and hands-on health care career exploration activities such as dissections, tours of health care facilities and a CPR certification class. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for successful completion of post-secondary health care educational programs. Each student measures their progress in English and math by comparing pre-tests with post-tests. Students also take the computerized placement test (CPT) at SLCC to see where they would be placed and to increase their levels before attending college. They may also earn high school credit. A unique component to this program is that students receive a stipend for participation so they get to earn while they learn! Students participating in this program over the past three years made new friends, explored careers, learned leadership skills, and progressed toward their goals.



Region Updates

Eastern Region

Vernal WIA Youth Leadership Project

The WIA Youth in the Vernal office teamed up with Naples City and Boy Scout Troop 232 to pull off a huge beautification project. Naples City has expanded their city park and youth rolled up their sleeves to install a watering system and to plant over 70 trees and rose bushes.

Naples City charged the youth with researching possible plants to be used as a hedge. The youth chose a variety of rose bushes that provide the desired barrier and require little maintenance. The roses will reach maturity in only 3-4 years; other choices would take many more years to produce an actual hedge.

The youth learned about installation of watering systems and the proper planting of trees. The youth installed the watering system and they prepared and replaced soil to provide a good environment for the trees and bushes to grow.

The park area developed was once designated for a parking lot. The road base dirt that had been placed in the area presented a huge challenge. Rocks were dug up and cleared so the water line could be buried and the soil could be improved for new trees and shrubs.

The group celebrated the completion with a pizza party and now has a lasting project they can watch grow in the years to come.

The project included installing a water system.



Youth in the Vernal area plant tree and bushes for beautification project.

Youth Leadership Project in Roosevelt

Roosevelt WIA youth participants and DWS Staff worked together in conjunction with Roosevelt City on a beautification project. They started with team building activities and then planted flowers in 100 pots along Main Street and Highway 40 in Roosevelt. After the planting was completed a barbeque was held. DWS staff cooked for the hungry youth.

Roosevelt City Councilperson, Guy Coleman, thanked the WIA youth and DWS staff for their contributions. This is the second year the youth have completed this service project for Roosevelt City. The town residents are enjoying the purple, yellow and white flowers that are blooming due to their efforts.

Region Updates



Youth do some hands-on work planting flowers on Roosevelt's Main Street.



Roosevelt youth and DWS staff line up for a well-earned barbecue after planting flowers on Main Street.

Blanding Youth Project

In the Southeast area, \$1000 for a youth leadership project was awarded to Blanding. The Blanding project involved partnering with the City of Blanding and the Blanding Beautification Committee. The Beautification Committee is working to spruce up the city for Blanding's Centennial Year; many centennial events are planned throughout the year, with the main events scheduled for July.

The funding was used to purchase flowers, pots, potting soil, and a nice banner. On the designated day many youth and adults assembled and potted 100 planters with flowers and assisted in preparing some flower beds on Blanding's Main Street. The Blanding Centennial Committee was very thankful for the funding and the donated manpower.

In addition to the planting project, Blanding WIA youth participated in a customer service workshop where they visited several of the businesses in Blanding. While there youth were taught how to greet customers as they came in the front door, how to use correct phone etiquette in business calls, and they also learned about goods and services offered by the businesses.

Great job, Blanding.



The banner highlights that June is the beautification month for Blanding.



There was plenty of work for all as 100 planters were potted with flowers.



Region Updates

Northern Region

Bear River - Our youth providers have been busy! The youth held their leadership activity on Saturday, June 18 and partnered with the Hispanic Health Coalition and the Bear River Health Department to assist in a community health fair at Willow Park. Although the event was geared toward the Hispanic community, everyone was invited to attend. There were over 20 booths and information was provided on a wide range of health issues. All the agencies participating were local and non-profit. Youth involved in the WIA program were involved in several ways. One of the youth, who is currently on a paid internship at a graphics design company, designed the flyer. Other youth helped set up and take down the booths, while others handed out information. Overall, the project was a huge success and provided the youth with an opportunity to learn more about what is available in the community, and to provide service to others.

In addition to the leadership project, the Summer Youth Employment Opportunity (SYEO) is well under way. DWS negotiated a contract with the Utah State University (USU) Extension/4-H Program to run the SYEO program this year. The WIA employment counselors in Brigham City and Logan referred 15 youth to USU. USU was responsible for finding worksites, for providing classroom instruction and for handling paperwork, including paychecks. This is the first year that a partnership like this has been developed and it has worked incredibly well. Our youth council chair, Scott Williams, works for USU Extension in the 4-H program and was instrumental in setting up the program. The youth are on a



Youth in Bear River area help put up booths, blow up balloons, hand out information and more at a recent health fair.

wide range of worksites, from Whitaker Construction to Tremonton Hospital, and the Senior Center to DWS, among others. The

Region Updates



youth began their SYEO on June 20 and it will run through August 12.

Bear River Area/North Region Success Stories

Nadia G. was enrolled in the WIA youth program on March 18 with only 2.75 high school credits. She is 20 years old and has two young children. She was very motivated and wanted to complete her high school diploma to increase her educational and employment opportunities. She was referred to an alternative high school program and has excelled. In April she earned 7 credits towards her high school diploma and in May she earned another 5.5 credits. She is on schedule to graduate in June. She also has an extremely limited work history and has chosen to participate in the summer youth employment opportunity. She has been assigned a worksite and is doing extremely well.

Alfie L., a client of Futures Through Training, Inc. (FTT) for the last three years, has just graduated from Ben Lomond High School! Alfie proudly finished his last semester with a GPA of 3.1 and as a member of the class of 2005 is now on the search for a job to help him through college. Alfie has stated that he plans on signing up for the Ogden Weber Applied Technology Center and working toward his Associates degree in auto mechanics then transferring to Weber State University.

Alfie has worked the FTT Summer Youth Program for the last two years and has benefited greatly from his experiences in the

program. Recently he came in to the FTT offices and was able to create an excellent resume using the skills learned at FTT.

Jolene N. entered the program in February 2005. She was in foster care up until three months ago. She has now successfully moved out on her own and pays her own rent and bills. In May 2005 she graduated from high school and was one of the main speakers at graduation where she spoke about dedication and success. While completing high school Jolene attended the Ogden Weber Applied Technical College (OWATC) and received her C.N.A certification.

She is currently working two jobs to support herself. She says she loves working lots of hours and is looking forward to attending the OWATC or Weber State to further her education. She says she has set a goal of becoming a registered nurse.

Mountainland Region

As was explained in the previous update, this summer a work simulation program modeled after one of the WIA Texas Programs has been designed. More details will be included in the next newsletter after the simulation has been completed.

Mountainland Region Success Story

Crystal is an older youth who was enrolled as an out-of-school youth. She was referred to WIA through her school counselor in April 2003. Crystal dropped out due to a number of challenges, including pregnancy.



Region Updates

Mountainland Region Cont.

After the birth of her baby, Crystal finished high school and started an internship at Kindercare, a local daycare agency. Crystal successfully completed her internship and gained work skills. She concluded that she did not want to pursue this as her career.

Crystal's next adventure was college. She started out taking some general education courses and then discovered that she wanted to become a computer programmer. Despite having a learning disability and other barriers, Crystal has consistently worked hard to be successful and to create and maintain a balance in her life.

Crystal is currently employed and has applied for scholarships to major in software development. Crystal has not yet decided which college she wants to attend but has several options. WIA is recognizing Crystal for her hard work, determination, and radiantly positive attitude in working toward her educational and employment goals.

As we end the current program year, we cannot help but think of those who have helped make our successes possible. We are grateful to our community partners, the Mountainland Consortium, and DWS Mountainland for their efforts and support.



***For the latest career guide information, visit
jobs.utah.gov/wi***

State Youth Council Member Profile

Becky Cox assumed the role of Western Region Youth Council Chair when our prior Chair, Regan Wilson from Job Corp resigned. Becky is an educator, lecturer, naturalist, youth advocate, artist, writer, and entrepreneur. Her education background is in Family and Consumer Sciences with considerable graduate work in Education, Psychology, Counseling, and Art Therapy.

Becky has a wide range of teaching experiences from pre-schoolers to college level and everything in

between. Becky has designed and implemented many innovative programs for youth and adults.

Becky enjoys organizing and facilitating youth adventure camps, youth leadership conferences and enrichment retreats for all ages. She has 25 years experience in producing a wide variety of successful events. She works with groups of adults and youth weekly and is highly rated by her participants. In addition to being the Western Region Youth Council Chair, she also serves as Chairman

of Promise Foundation-Opportunities for Youth Empowerment, and Commission for Student Involvement for her local PTA.

Becky is the mother of seven children, five of them are now adults and the other two are typical teenagers. She is the proud grandmother of 5.5 grandchildren. She and her husband, Paul, spend their time between St. George, Utah and Bryce Canyon National Park where they operate a sight seeing airplane business.

The State Youth Council meets as part of the State Council on a quarterly basis. The last two meetings for 2005 are July 14 and October 13.



Contact Information

If you have suggestions or comments for the newsletter, please contact Julie Lay at jlay@utah.gov. If you have questions regarding the State Youth Council, please contact Jane Broadhead at jbroadh@utah.gov or go to our Web page at jobs.utah.gov and select State Council/State Youth Council.

If you have questions regarding youth services or youth programs, please contact the Youth Specialist in your area:

Northern: Julie Anderson, julieanderson@utah.gov
Mountainland: Wendy Hughes, whughes@utah.gov
Central: Rebecca Banner, rbanner@utah.gov

Western: Ann Barnson, abarso@utah.gov
Eastern: Kelly Thornton, kthornto@utah.gov

If you have questions regarding Regional Youth Councils in your area or your Regional Council, please contact the Regional Council Coordinator in your area:

Northern: Susan Hill, shill@utah.gov
Mountainland: Julie Lay, jlay@utah.gov
Central: Diane Lovell, dianelovell@utah.gov
Eastern: Bob Gilbert, bobgilbert@utah.gov
Western: Kathleen Johnson, kathjohn@utah.gov

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